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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 25 JULY 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement adopted on 21 July 1995 in Geneva by the Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have it distributed to the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) El Hassane ZAHID
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

[Original: English]

Press communiqué of the Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Geneva, 21 July 1995

1. The Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with the Secretary-General, met at Geneva on 21 July 1995 to consider the grave situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina arising from the intensified aggression of so-called Bosnian Serbs with the military support of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro) and assaults on the United Nations safe areas. The safe areas of Zepa, Goradze and Bihac are especially under brutal attacks while the humanitarian consequences of the rape of Srebrenica are still mounting.

2. The Foreign Ministers strongly condemned the overrunning of the safe area of Srebrenica by the Serbs, as well as their attacks on other safe areas and the perpetration of acts of genocide, rape and other acts of inhumanity against the civilian population, in blatant violation of Security Council resolutions and all norms of civilized conduct, law and morality.

3. The Foreign Ministers took note of the statement issued by the International Meeting on Bosnia, held in London on 21 July 1995, and expressed the hope that the commitments contained therein will be implemented. However, they emphasized the need for fulfilment of all earlier commitments made by the Security Council and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) relating to ensuring the protection of all safe areas, including Zepa and Bihac. They also recalled Security Council resolution 1004 (1995) calling for the use of all resources available to restore the status of Srebrenica as a safe area. They also reminded the members of the International Contact Group of their solemn commitment to implement its peace plan. The Foreign Ministers will closely follow the fulfilment of the commitments made by the participants in the London Meeting with respect to Goradze.

4. The Foreign Ministers expressed their profound anguish and disappointment over the failure of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5. The Foreign Ministers underlined that the unjustified and illegal arms embargo imposed on the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the absence of strict implementation of sanctions imposed on the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro), the failure of the Mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to monitor effectively the embargo against the Bosnian Serbs, the perpetual and deliberate inaction of the key members of the Security Council, and the hollow promises for a just solution made by the major mediating Powers have all significantly contributed to the present devastating situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina resulting from the Serbian policy of aggression and genocide.

6. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the principled position adopted by the States members of OIC on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as reflected in all previous OIC resolutions and declarations.

7. The Foreign Ministers, therefore, emphasized and recommended the following:

(a) Immediate and decisive action by the international community, particularly by the Security Council to restore its credibility in defending the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a State Member of the United Nations, against aggression and genocide.

(b) Urgent use of force to halt Serbian aggression and to recover all the territories forcibly captured by the Serbs where their genocidal policy of systematic ethnic cleansing has unabatedly continued.

(c) The international community should use all means possible, including those through the Security Council, with a view to:

(i) Defending Zepa and Bihac, and if not they will take measures consistent with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations;

(ii) Restoring Srebrenica as a safe area;

(iii) Protecting Goradze, Bihac, Sarajevo and Tuzla - United Nations-designated safe areas;

(iv) Halting the Serbian aggression in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(v) Ensuring the immediate acceptance by the Serbs of the International Contact Group plan as proposed.

The Security Council shall be called upon, as the main international body entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security, to uphold the International Contact Group peace plan and, consistent with it, to ensure the restoration of the United Nations-designated safe areas occupied and ethnically cleansed by the so-called Bosnian Serbs.

(d) The member countries of OIC do not consider themselves "de jure" obliged to respect the illegal and unjust arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Member of the United Nations, which is the victim of Serbian aggression. The burden of proof is upon the Security Council to justify the legality of the maintenance of the arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They will intensify their efforts in bolstering the defence capacities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Members of the United Nations are under an obligation to urgently provide means of self-defence to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina under Chapter VII, Article 51, of the Charter.

(e) All necessary assistance and support should be given to the joint efforts of the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia in safeguarding

their sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as all kinds of support to strengthen the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(f) The States members of OIC are ready to contribute towards the strengthening of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) or other bilateral or collectively agreed upon military arrangements and in this context are prepared to play a greater role in UNPROFOR's command and operational structures. In this context, it would be necessary that their offers of additional troop deployments should be accepted. Appropriate mechanisms of better coordination among OIC troop contributors, those who have offered troops and the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina would be established. This includes the convening of a consultative meeting of Ministers of Defence, accompanied by armed forces Commanders-in-Chief of the OIC Contact Group countries as well as OIC countries contributing troops for UNPROFOR, to consider and adopt appropriate strategies.

(g) In case of the withdrawal of UNPROFOR, the States members of OIC would consider keeping their contingents in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the arrangements with the Government, consistent with the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the Republic. These contingents could be increased in number and better equipped in arms. A new mechanism for coordination of their actions will be established with the legal authorities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(h) The Foreign Ministers noted that the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide poses an affirmative obligation on signatories to act to stop genocide.

(i) The Foreign Ministers also emphasized the need for promoting an international coalition including States members of OIC to cooperate with the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the exercise of its right of individual and collective self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter.

(j) The international community including the States members of OIC may intensify their efforts to exert greater pressure for the effective border closing between the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro) as wel. as on the regime in Belgrade, including the possibility of severing their relations with the regime, until it accepts mutual and unconditional recognition of the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

(k) The States members of OIC consider that the policy of appeasement of certain Security Council members of the Serbian policy of aggression and genocide will have serious consequences, further endangering international peace and security, and will also be counter-productive in the efforts to bring about a negotiated settlement.

(l) The States members of OIC express once again their resolve to continue to strictly implement the existing Security Council sanctions on the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro) and call on the Security Council to ensure their full implementation by all countries.

(m) Urgent mobilization of financial and humanitarian assistance for alleviating the sufferings of the Bosnian refugees and displaced persons.

(n) The OIC countries fully support the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its legal action before the International Court of Justice versus the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro) for violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

(o) The OIC countries urge the International War Crimes Tribunal to vigorously prosecute the suspects so far named by the Tribunal, including Karadzic and Mladic, with a view to securing their indictment and call on the international community to lend its maximum possible support to the Tribunal.

(p) In view of the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Foreign Ministers considered the possibility of holding a summit-level meeting of the members of the Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and OIC States contributing troops.